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**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A theft deterrent backpack comprising:

a plurality of panels attached to one another forming a main compartment of the backpack, the plural panels including a back panel with at least one two shoulder strap straps each attached and at both ends to the back panel and the plural panels further including a second panel, other than the back panel; and

a single substantially linear releasable securing device for accessing the main compartment of the backpack, the releasable securing device having a beginning end and a terminating end, the terminating end being disposed on the back panel and the beginning end being disposed on the second panel.

2. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the second panel is a front panel.

3. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 2, wherein the backpack further includes a side panel and the releasable securing device extends across at least a portion of the side panel.

4. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 2, wherein the backpack further includes a bottom panel and the releasable securing device extends across at least a portion of the bottom panel.

5. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the second panel is a side panel.

6. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the second panel is a

bottom panel.

7. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is a zipper chain.

8. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is disposed substantially longitudinally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

9. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is disposed substantially laterally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

10. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device extends at least substantially halfway along the back panel of the backpack when the backpack is held substantially upright.

11. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is adapted to extend sufficiently along the back panel of the backpack so that the terminating end rests against a wearer's body when worn.

12. (Currently Amended) A theft deterrent backpack comprising:

a plurality of panels attached to one another forming a main compartment of the backpack, the plural panels including a back panel with ~~at least one~~ two shoulder strap straps each attached and at both ends to the back panel and the plural panels further including a second panel, other than the back panel; and

a single substantially linear zipper chain for accessing the main compartment of the backpack, the zipper chain having a beginning end and a terminating end, the zipper chain being disposed so that the terminating end is disposed on the back panel and the beginning end is disposed on the second panel.

13. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack in accordance with claim 12, wherein the second

panel is a front panel.

14. (Previously Presented) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 13, wherein the backpack further includes a side panel and the zipper chain extends across at least a portion of the side panel.

15. (Previously Presented) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 13, wherein the backpack further includes a bottom panel and the zipper chain extends across at least a portion of the bottom panel.

16. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack in accordance with claim 12, wherein the second panel is a side panel.

17. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack in accordance with claim 12, wherein the second panel is a bottom panel.

18. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain is disposed substantially longitudinally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

19. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain is disposed substantially laterally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

20. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain extends at least substantially halfway along the back panel of the backpack when the backpack is held substantially upright.

21. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain is adapted to extend sufficiently down the back panel of the backpack so that the terminating end rests against a wearer's body when worn.

22. (Currently Amended) A theft deterrent backpack comprising:

a main compartment of the backpack formed by a plurality of panels attached to one another, the plural panels including at least ~~a front panel and a back panel~~ with at least one shoulder strap attached thereto at both ends to the back panel and the plural panels further including a second panel, other than the back panel; and

a single substantially linear releasable securing device for accessing the main compartment of the backpack, the releasable securing device ~~extending along at least two of the plural panels~~ having a beginning end and a terminating end, the terminating end being disposed on the back panel and the beginning end being disposed on the second panel.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Added) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the plural panels are integral with one another.

26. (Previously Added) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the plural panels are integral with one another.

27. (Previously Added) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 22, wherein the plural panels are integral with one another.